

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **December 13, 2005**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Approval of the Lynchburg College Emergency Services to Operate as a Licensed Agency**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution approving the request of the Lynchburg College Emergency Services (LCEMS) to operate as a state licensed Basic Life Support (BLS) non-transport emergency medical services agency.

SUMMARY: The attached letter asks that City Council approve a request for LCEMS to operate as a non-transport BLS emergency medical services agency. The State Code provides that the establishment of a new agency of this type must be approved by the local governing body. Relevant sections of the State Code are attached for Council's review. Also attached is a copy of a letter from Acting Chief Brad Ferguson stating his position on this matter.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: None

CONTACT(S): Kimball Payne, 455-3990

ATTACHMENT(S): Letter of request; Code of Virginia Excerpts; Letter from Acting Chief Brad Ferguson; Resolution

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Excerpts from the Code of Virginia, 1950, As Amended

§ 15.2-955. Approval by local governing body for the establishment of certain rescue emergency services organizations.

A. No volunteer rescue squad, emergency medical service organization or other organization providing similar type services, or volunteer fire-fighting organization shall be established in any locality on or after July 1, 1984, without the prior approval by resolution of the governing body.

B. Each locality shall seek to ensure that emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality.

(1984, c. 599, § 15.1-26.01; 1997, c. 587; 2005, c. 418.)

§ 27-8. Who may form a fire/EMS company; limit on number of persons in combined companies.

Any number of persons, not less than twenty, may form themselves into a company for extinguishing fires or for performing emergency medical services, or both. In any county in which two or more companies for extinguishing fires or for performing emergency medical services shall join together and singly use one fire/EMS station, the number of persons in the combined companies shall be not less than twenty. The minimum number of persons required by this section shall only apply to the formation of a fire company.

(Code 1919, § 3121; 1946, p. 110; 1970, c. 187; 2001, c. 142.)

§ 27-8.1. Definitions.

"Emergency medical services personnel" means persons responsible for the direct provision of emergency medical or rescue services in a given medical emergency or emergency rescue including all persons who could be described as attendants, attendants-in-charge, or operators.

"Emergency medical services vehicle" means any vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or ambulance that holds a valid emergency medical services permit issue by the Office of Emergency Medical Services that is equipped, maintained or operated to provide emergency medical care or transportation of patients who are sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

"Fire/EMS company" or "Fire/EMS department" means a volunteer fire-fighting or emergency medical services (EMS) organization organized pursuant to § 27-8 in any town, city or county of the Commonwealth, with the approval of the governing body thereof consisting of fire fighters or emergency medical services personnel, or both.

(1970, c. 187; 2001, c. 142.)

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED That the Lynchburg City Council hereby approves the request of the Lynchburg College Emergency Medical Services (LCEMS) to seek a license from the Commonwealth of Virginia to operate as a Basic Life Support (BLS) non-transport agency in the City of Lynchburg.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

168L



The City of Lynchburg, Virginia

To: Kim Payne, City Manager
From: Steven B. Ferguson, Deputy Chief
Date: November 11, 2005
Subject: Memo on Lynchburg College EMS

On November 10th, 2005 I received a copy of a letter addressed to you and City Council regarding Lynchburg College Emergency Medical Services. After reviewing the letter and discussing the issue with City Attorney Walter Erwin, I would offer the following comments.

Lynchburg College Emergency Medical Services is asking the City to endorse its request to become a state licensed, basic life support, non-transport agency. Generally the State Office of Emergency Medical Services will not license an agency without the approval of the local governing body. Chapter 5 of the City Code addresses the provision of "ambulance service" but does not address non-transport issues. So unless the code is changed I am not sure that we are "required" to do anything with this, however, should City Council wish to endorse this request I do not see where it would present any problems for The Fire Department.

I feel that Lynchburg College EMS wants to become a licensed agency so they will be more formally recognized as an agency and they would also be eligible for state grants and awards. The rescue squad assistance fund grant process requires that you be state licensed in order to apply for a grant.

As an additional note: I think the state code does allow the local governing body to regulate the provision of emergency medical services, however, up until now The City has only looked at the transport aspect (ambulance service).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

cc: Cecil V. Martinette, Fire Chief

File

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Lynchburg College Emergency Medical Services
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Lynchburg, VA 24501
(804)564-5873

Mr. L. Kimball Payne
Lynchburg City Council
900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504

To: Lynchburg City Council care of Mr. Kimball Payne

I write to you on behalf of the members of the Lynchburg College Emergency Medical Services (LCEMS). We wish to solicit your approval of our transition from our current status as a private volunteer EMS team to a licensed Commonwealth of Virginia BLS non-transport agency.

LCEMS was established in the early 1980's. We have consistently provided volunteer medical services on a 24 hour basis during the regular academic schedule. This service has been provided as a first responder system with ambulance/ALS support from Lynchburg Fire & EMS and the Lynchburg Life Saving Crew. Our minimum certification level is CPR for Healthcare Providers, however, we urge all of our members to be certified as EMT's and at least one EMT is on duty at all times. Of the 30 members currently on the squad, 15 are EMT certified. LCEMS already operates with all necessary BLS equipment. We are insured through Lynchburg College policies and we have faculty advisors who work with our service to maintain quality. We also utilize state-wide reporting systems (PPCR's). We are in the process of obtaining formal mutual aid agreements with all necessary agencies. For years, we have relied on Dr. Epps for our medical direction. In preparation for this new licensure, we have been assigned Dr. Pattrick Wynnyk who has agreed to serve as our Operational Medical Director.

Again, we wish to formally solicit Lynchburg City Council's approval and therefore all permits necessary to operate within your locality on the Lynchburg College Campus as a volunteer, BLS, non-transport agency that operates 24 hours a day when the college is in session. We will not be operating an ambulance, nor will we offer any kind of transport service on campus or within the city limits of Lynchburg. We will continue to rely on the city to provide all emergency transport services. We hope that all of your questions will be answered this request, however, if any further information or assistance is necessary please contact me at any time. We wish to thank you in advance for your time and support of LCEMS.

Sincerely,

Danielle DiFranco
Chief of LCEMS

cc: Grant Azdell, Faculty Advisor to LCEMS
Brad Ferguson, LFD Deputy Chief
Connie Purvis, BREMS Director
Bob Driskill, Head of Security Lynchburg College
John Eccles, Dean of Students Lynchburg College

